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Memorial.

James Thomas, Jr.

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PRESENTED BY

Louisville

July 29, 1887

My dear Mrs. Curry:

I do not accept C.'s explanation. It is my opinion that the Tarifa children had never seen so handsome a couple.

Love to all.

Affy

J. A. B.

Louisville, Ky.
Feb. 5, 1887

My dear D. Curry:

I thank you warmly for your 2 letters. Your points about Mr. Thomas will be a very great help to me. I could not have ventured to delineate his grand & rich character, but for the hope of assistance from the family. I read your statements with delight. Mrs. Thomas has just sent the album containing newspaper obituaries & letters of condolence, & will also help greatly. I have asked William & Allison to give me some jottings.

I trust you & your wife are greatly enjoying your life in Spain. Very rarely, I fancy, has so queenly & gracious a woman moved through the grand Castilian halls.

I notice you have a treaty negotiation on your hands, & the Spanish minister in Washington is

flustering a bit. — Watterson is attacking the Administration in the same old reckless & good natured fashion. After his long & perilous illness, he is himself again, for good & ill.

We were much obliged for the books you kindly sent. We have the Migne ed. of the Greek & Latin Fathers. As you inquire, I mention that we sh.d be particularly glad to get any works of the Schoolmen — especially of Thomas Aquinas, from whom we have only the Summa Theologiae. Also any works in Latin, or in French, about the Jesuits, pro or con. I think it is Suarez whose Theologia Moralis is so famous.

My family are tolerably well, & join me in best regards to Mrs. Curry & yourself.

Very truly yrs.

John A. Broadus

Richmond, University.
"

MEMORIAL

OF

JAMES THOMAS, JR.

ADDRESSES BY

JOHN A. BROADUS, D.D., LL.D.,

AND OFFICERS OF THE COLLEGE, ON THE FORMAL OPENING

OF THE

Museum and Art Hall,

RICHMOND COLLEGE,

SEPTEMBER 22, 1887.

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Everett Waddey,
Printer and Binder,
Richmond, Va.

PREFATORY.

The name of JAMES THOMAS, JR., has been associated with Richmond College from its foundation. He was distinguished for active concern in the growth and permanence of the institution, and for his benefactions. At the time of his death he was President of the Corporation.

The Trustees have inscribed to the memory of his liberality and fidelity a handsome and spacious Hall in the main College edifice, to be used for Museum and Art purposes.

This Hall was formally opened in the presence of a brilliant assemblage of the friends of the College on the 22d of September, 1887.

The following pages will indicate the character of the exercises on this interesting occasion.

WELCOME.

BY

H. H. HARRIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE FACULTY.

My part is to address to the assembled audience a simple word of welcome to these academic shades and this new hall. Let me, first, in behalf of trustees and faculty, greet these young men who have gathered from far and near—one from the resounding shores of Massachusetts bay, another from the golden sands of the Pacific slope, a score from the intervening States, from Pennsylvania to Texas, and last, though not least, these sturdy sons of the Old Dominion. His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, will pardon me if I assume for the nonce to speak for Virginia, in congratulating these young gentlemen on the auspicious opening of the session and welcoming them to this capital city to pursue

a course of mental and moral training for the duties soon to devolve upon them as citizens and as men. These reverend gentlemen and city fathers will join me in welcoming you to the rare social and religious privileges of Richmond, and in hoping that during your sojourn you may enjoy them to the full. Other sweet words of welcome some of you will hear—they will come best in softer tones than I can use.

Next I beg to greet with peculiar pleasure these representatives of our sister institutions who sit with us and take part in the joys of this evening. One of the most pleasant things in our educational system is the loving sisterhood, the generous emulation between the colleges of the State. We accept your presence, gentlemen, as a token of your interest in us, which we most heartily reciprocate.

And now, in behalf of the three estates of the college—trustees, faculty and students—I greet most heartily this galaxy of talent and wisdom which adorns the platform, and this compact array of manliness and beauty which fills the floor. A college must keep aloof from the whirl of the busy world, enough, at least, to give its strength

to those recondite matters of science and of literature which form the unseen foundations of all real and reliable progress in civilization and enlightenment. But our situation, as it were, in the "fierce light that beats upon a throne," our view from these towers of historic fields and undying monuments, our proximity to the throbbing heart of this railway and manufacturing centre, puts us morally, as well as locally, in the line of improvement, and keeps us in vitalizing contact with the political, commercial, social, and religious thought of the world, Thus while our courses of instruction are specially for the benefit of the students, we covet the hearty sympathy of the good people of Richmond, and shall often open this hall, as well as our chapel, for popular lectures, at which all present will be most heartily welcome.

One other group is here for whom this occasion has the deepest interest. To most of us the evening is one of unmixed rejoicing; to them it recalls the memory of unutterable loss. The trustees have fitly shown their appreciation of a liberal benefactor, a wise counsellor, a faithful officer, by dedicating this hall to his memory. They have

spared neither time nor money in trying to finish it with something of the massive strength, the hearty genuineness, and the artistic taste of him whose name it bears. To her who was the partner of his inmost thoughts, and to the children around whom his affections clustered, Richmond College will always offer its warmest welcome.

PRESENTATION.

BY

WM. E. HATCHER, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE.

MR. ELLYSON: I stand here to discharge a grateful duty. The Jeter Memorial Committee has commissioned me to transfer, through you, to the custody of the Trustees of Richmond College, this Memorial Hall, with the request that it may, *in perpetuo*, be consecrated to the purposes for which it has been constructed.

Permit me to accompany this formal presentation with a brief explanatory statement. Richmond College had a modest origin, and it has

been by a slow and arduous struggle that she has attained to her present attitude of distinction and power.

It becomes us to hold in lively remembrance the fact that from the days of her infancy she has had great-hearted friends, by whose nourishing love and needful gifts she has been made what she is.

A few years ago, one of these friends, the self-made and yet unselfish Jeter, well-ripened in years, went to his grave. When that event, so fraught with sorrow to the college, occurred, there was heard, at once, a strong popular clamor that some suitable and abiding monument should be erected—such as would embalm his memory, and at the same time help the cause of Christian education. In response to that public wish, a committee was appointed to provide the monument, and it must suffice to say that within three years the committee was enabled to erect the Jeter Memorial Hall, and that, too, without one dollar of expense to the college.

It came to pass that, during the progress of that work, another excellent and eminent benefactor of the college came to the end of his career. That friend was James Thomas, Jr., and

I do not find it easy to repress the impulse to pay my modest tribute to his name. But as lips far worthier than mine wait to tell the story of his work and worth, it befits me to be silent, except to say that the Jeter Memorial Committee, sharing in the popular conviction that the name of Mr. Thomas, also, ought to be indissolubly linked with the college, appeared before the trustees, asking that they might have the honor of providing a fitting memorial for him. This request met a prompt and cordial approval on the part of the trustees, and the committee, after many weeks of anxious deliberation, decided to build this hall as a monument to Mr. Thomas. We open it to-night in his honor, and pray that it may ever stand as the gift of this college to one of the truest and wisest friends she has ever had. As to the form of this memorial, or as to the taste displayed in its construction and adornment, it does not become me, as the organ of the committee, to utter a single word. Here it is—the Thomas Memorial Hall—and it remains for others, and not for us, to pronounce judgment upon it.

I may add, however, that this hall is intended to be more than a monument. It would have been

rank disloyalty to the memory of an eminently simple and practical man, if we had built for him a splendid but useless mausoleum. It is none the less honorable to him that the memorial which is to keep alive the public recollection of his services is designed also to confer choice and exalted blessings upon the living. It takes its place in this institution, and will bear its part in the work of higher education.

I present this hall without furniture, and without that material necessary to make it subserve the purposes for which it has been erected. For this we make no apology. It was ours to build the hall, and not to fill it.

This entire building, now happily finished, is truly monumental. While its two stately halls strikingly punctuate the services of its two most illustrious benefactors, it is proper to say that provision has been made to keep in affectionate remembrance all the friends who have made great gifts to the college. In the days that are to come, this magnificent building, crowning the noblest height of Richmond, will stand a silent witness to the magnanimous services of the fathers and friends of Richmond College. It will keep com-

pany with that sacred pile soon to rise, in the adjacent park, in honor of the noblest Christian soldier that this country has produced.

This is the James Thomas Memorial Hall; beneath is that of Jeter. Both equal in capacity, each fraught with useful intentions, and suited well to commemorate the virtues of their respective heroes. In their lives, Jeter and Thomas wrought for the college's honor; now, that they are dead, the college honors them. United in life, they are not divided in death.

And now, Mr. Ellyson, as I pass to you the keys of this hall, I am reminded that the work of the committee is ended, and not without a tinge of sadness we must bow ourselves out among the things that were. But I am reminded that, in saying that this building is completed, I have made a mistake. I recall the ill-spoken word. We have built a home for art, and a chamber for literature, but down beneath is yet an unfinished department that is intended to be the home of science. Let me say for the committee, that, while we would relish a vacation, and are not crying for other worlds to conquer, we would, if some generous friend would give us the means, make

a sacrifice of our feelings and continue our existence until we had also finished the scientific department.

ACCEPTANCE.

BY

H. K. ELLYSON, PRESIDENT OF TRUSTEES.

MR. CHAIRMAN :

The Board of Trustees cannot adequately express in words their gratitude and thanks to your committee for the monuments you have built to two of the most eminent friends of the college. In more impressive and enduring form than human speech, these memorials themselves speak your praises and tell how zealously and successfully you have labored. They remind us, too, how greatly we are indebted to friends in all parts of the country, whose gifts enabled you to complete your labor of love in a manner worthy of the men you would honor and of the institution which was the object of their life-long solicitude.

The trustees gratefully receive from you this beautiful and spacious hall, to be ever hereafter

dedicated to the memory of one of the earliest and most liberal benefactors of Richmond College. But for his timely aid, given when most needed, we might not now be able to rejoice in the bright prospect that opens before us. In our darkest hours, his great heart was always full of hope, and his free hand made possible the highest ambition of his life—the founding in this city of an institution of learning that should become the pride of his native State. Others may follow with larger gifts than his, but none can come with greater potency for good, because his help was given when the very life of the college seemed to tremble in painful uncertainty. To Jas. Thomas, Jr., more than to any other man, we owe the establishment of Richmond College on a permanent foundation, solid and broad enough to sustain the grand structure which this and the coming generations shall build upon it.

The trustees do not forget that where your work on this hall ends theirs begins. It comes into their possession in all its lovely emptiness, and is yet to be furnished and adorned with the treasures of art and nature it was designed to receive. Already a good beginning has been

made in collections for this purpose, but the trustees will not be satisfied until all the space in this hall is filled with rare and choice objects worthy of a place on its walls or in its cabinets.

I trust it will not be thought out of place on this occasion for the trustees to acknowledge their obligation to the family of Mr. Thomas for their liberal endowment of a lectureship, which secures an annual course of lectures at the college, open to the public, by some eminent man of the times. It is another of many evidences of their deep interest in this institution, and of their desire to cultivate a popular taste for the true and beautiful in art, philosophy and science.

Again thanking you, gentlemen, for what you have so well and wisely done, I beg to assure you that the trustees of the college will ever hold in grateful remembrance the work of the Jeter Memorial Committee. Indeed, we have so high an appreciation of your architectural taste and skill, and of your happy facility in securing the means with which to execute your plans, that we shall, as a further testimony of our esteem, appoint your committee our permanent monument builders.

ADDRESS.

BY

JOHN A BROADUS, D. D., LL. D.

To build a museum in connection with a public library, and as part of an institution for higher education, is but a return to the original elevated application of that term. A museum among the Greeks was primarily any haunt of the Muses; next, a place for the study of objects dear to the Muses, such as art, poetry, history and eloquence. Plato and Aristotle erected each a building called a museum, containing rooms for the study of philosophy, and—then first in the history of culture—a public library, open to students and visitors. This was imitated on a much larger scale by the great museum at Alexandria, collecting a library that became one of the wonders of the

world, and furnishing to the students lecture-rooms, grand porticoes, and beautiful out-door walks, suited to the favorite Greek method of peripatetic instruction, together with a common hall, or mess-room, in which the professors and students might dine together, and thus at the same time supply to each other a feast of reason. From this celebrated model of a museum down to the now current use of the term to denote a mere collection of curiosities and monstrosities is almost as great a degradation as in certain current uses of the term professor.

But there are still instances in which a museum, though no longer comprising halls of instruction, denotes something elevated and dignified. The British Museum contains one of the great modern libraries, far surpassing in number the collection at Alexandria. And even when the library is excluded, there are not a few great museums in Europe and America which are designed to furnish means of education. They do this in two principal ways. They collect objects of natural history, in its three great departments of mineralogy, botany, and zoology, and arrange these according to strict scientific classification, so as to

offer facilities for scientific study. In the foremost collection of this kind in America—the Agassiz Museum at Cambridge—there is in the first room a complete set of skeletons and preserved objects beginning with the very lowest forms of animal life, which it is difficult to distinguish from vegetable, and ascending in regular order to the highest animal—*i. e.*, man. What a privilege for eager students of biology, or for juvenile classes with their instructors, to enter freely, again and again, this noble "synoptic room." In the Metropolitan Museum of New York, and in the Smithsonian Institution, pains are also taken to render the grand collections accessible and available for the instruction of visiting classes by their teachers. Elementary knowledge of natural history is easily within reach of pupils ten or twelve years old, or even younger pupils where they can behold the actual objects; and it is worth considering whether elementary botany and zoology ought not to be much studied by such children, especially those who can occasionally visit a museum, instead of pushing them into English syntax, which scarcely any child of twelve can really understand, or into mathematical studies, for which only a few are at

that age prepared. Perhaps it will not be many years before various classes from private and public schools in Richmond and vicinity will be repeatedly seeking access to the collections that shall here be found. At any rate, the College students, and all adult minds disposed to inquire into geology and biology will find such collections not only helpful but necessary.

The other way in which a museum furnishes material of education is by the collection of antiquities. There is perhaps no department of knowledge in which object lessons are of greater value. The implements of ancient warfare, the utensils and ornaments of ancient life, the shrunken features of some mummied Egyptian, will give wings to historical imagination, and in a moment transport the student into the very midst of the ancient world. Nor is our comparatively new country without its objects of antiquarian interest. That relics of the Indians, and of the mound-building race in this country, may form an extremely interesting collection, very stimulating to historical inquiry and reflection, may be seen at the home of a well-known Richmond gentleman. There are also many relics of ancestral history in Virginia

and the adjacent States that might be gradually collected, and would greatly help in reproducing the life of the early settlers and the colonial times. Our gifted and lamented romance-writer and historian, John Esten Cooke, appears to have fairly proven, in his volume entitled "Virginia," that the story of Pocahontas saving the life of John Smith must, after all, be accepted as historical. The skeptical mode of dealing with history which Niebuhr rendered fashionable has led to much valuable research, but has gone to great extremes, and the inevitable reaction is already visible in many directions. No part of American colonial history is so thoroughly romantic as that of the Old Dominion; and much remains to be done in collecting its antiquities and digesting its documents and traditions. In like manner there must be many memorials of Virginia's share in the Revolution, and of her great series of Presidents and other statesmen, that ought to be collected into a museum at the State capital. And there is another great and mighty conflict, in which Virginia bore an unequalled share of suffering, and was not backward in achievement, which already, for the rising generation, is a thing of the past,

and whose precious and often perishable relics ought to be rapidly gathered. The conflict is over, its animosities have been quite laid aside, and we are contented and patriotic citizens of the United States: but the relics of that great civil war are sacred, for us and for our children, and its heroes, its splendid heroes, shall be famous forever.

We greatly need in this still new country to cultivate the historical spirit—to cherish a glowing love of the past; and to this end antiquarian collections are of real importance.

This room is opened as both a museum and an art hall. The development and discipline of our æsthetical nature is by no means the least important department of human education. The temporary affectation of æstheticism which a few years ago connected itself with an eccentric and somewhat ridiculous Englishman was a mere bubble on the surface, and should mislead no one as to the importance of the matters involved. The æsthetical is a substantive, potent, and indispensable element of human nature. There is a very close and striking resemblance between our æsthetical and our ethical nature. The language

of the nursery, which will always reward the most loving attention of the philologian or of the philosopher, has long ago taken account of this resemblance, by employing "pretty" and "ugly" to represent moral and immoral behavior. "Pretty is as pretty does," constitutes a profound maxim of ethical philosophy. And from youth to age one of the most vital departments of self-education is the cultivation of moral taste, so that what is good shall always seem beautiful to us, and whatever is bad shall offend us as ugly. Accordingly, we delight to make beautiful the accessories of our worship. There is obvious and real danger here of excess and even substitution, but there is also danger of defect. Civilization would perish if human beings should cease to care for the adornment of their persons and their homes; and how dry and dull would worship become if in its accessories and means of expression we should, or rather could, wholly eschew the beautiful. See the lesson that nature teaches us. The theory of natural selection tends to identify the beautiful and the useful in plants and animals, by showing how those that were more beautiful attracted admiring attention, and were thus perpetuated

rather than the ugly. But, as everywhere else in the Darwinian speculation this only moves the question a little further back, leaving us still to recognize in God's works the existence of the beautiful, and the love of the beautiful among all living creatures. And then, what as to the exquisite beauty in the shape and hues of the clouds, in the golden sunsets, in the rainbow, in the very composition of light! This celestial gratification of our deep and passionate love of the beautiful may furnish not merely an illustration in Ethics, but an argument in Theism.

The term art ought to include everything that appeals to our æsthetical nature. According to current philosophical use, there are six leading departments of art, viz: architecture and landscape-gardening, sculpture and painting, music and poetry. The two last are now very rarely included among the fine arts, and may, perhaps, be omitted from view in treating of this as an art hall, as they are otherwise not wholly neglected. Architecture and landscaping certainly deserve far more attention than they have received in the greater part of our new and growing country. It is matter of rejoicing when

the buildings erected by an institution of learning, and its encompassing grounds can awaken and gratify and educate the æsthetical nature of every pupil. There are apt to be some among the guardians of such an institution who object to all expenditure upon architectural effect and improvement of grounds, but whose views must be corrected, if possible, and otherwise must be politely disregarded, if such a seat of learning is to become really suited to its aims. Ah! the delicate and sensitive impressibility of gifted youths in the college years! Just to look every day at some symmetrical building, or at some grand and shapely tree—perhaps the very loveliest object in the vegetable world—may, in the course of years, profoundly impress a susceptible soul that is to be in the next generation a great power in society; and where college students dwell amid such an environment, many a home in village or country, many a public building or park will, in the coming generations, feel the effect.

But the present use of the term "art" in our schools is pretty much restricted to two of the fine arts. An art hall is naturally thought of as a place for collecting choice products and pro-

moting early study of sculpture and painting. With these will of course be coupled such subordinate and accessory arts as wood-carving, engraving on metal, stone or wood, drawing, and the various kinds of photography, and also the combinations of arts which connect themselves with the design and production of beautiful furniture and apparel.

Now, what part have such collections of art in the work of higher education? We need not dwell upon the fact that at least a few students of every session will be naturally capable of artistic creation, and upon them these collections and instructions will exert the most delightful and inspiring influence. You will never know, as you casually enter such a hall, but that one of the quiet youths who perhaps make way for the visitor and retire, or perhaps remain in absorbed contemplation, may be just now receiving impulses that will carry him in coming years to high artistic achievement and fame. Let no one think lightly of these few. Some of the older States of our Union would have been able to retain, during the last two or three generations, many choice young men who have gone West, if the controlling pub-

lic opinion had more strongly favored the development among themselves of the industrial arts and the fine arts, and of the artistic in literature, and all the complex pursuits and products of high and complete civilization.

But a point of more general interest would be the educational effect of art collections upon the students at large. Nearly forty years ago, a young Virginian, who had never before been out of the State, went to spend some days in Philadelphia, and twice gave several hours to the old Academy of Art, especially to the paintings of Benjamin West, and to plaster casts of the most celebrated Greek statues. It was a revelation; it opened up a new world, and invested life with new possibilities of delight. Such single and powerful impressions are more distinctly remembered, but unspeakably greater in educational value is the opportunity of frequent and leisurely observation of such inspiring objects. Familiarity never breeds contempt where the object is one of elevated character and interest, and where the soul is at all susceptible; but the frequent contemplation becomes an ever-growing educational force, shaping the intellect, coloring the imagina-

tion, stirring the deepest and sweetest emotions. Happy those whose childhood and youth are spent in full view of great mountains, or beside the sounding sea, doubly happy if they enjoy both together, like the people of Palestine, Greece, Italy, Scotland. In like manner, happy the students who, just at that interesting point when intellect is approaching maturity, when culture is broadening the range of imagination and varying the objects of passion, spend several years amid the perpetual influence of architecture and landscape, and with the opportunity of daily visits to an inspiring collection of statuary and painting. And let it be remembered that a few works of high excellence, even a few good plaster casts or marble copies of the great statues, and a few copies of the great pictures, will kindle the susceptible observer and awaken those unutterable but quenchless yearnings which become a moulding power in the character and life, while a mass of poor stuff would but degrade the taste, if it did not fortunately repel and disgust. May it be not many years before the young of both sexes who come on some brief visit to Richmond, shall not only delight in its varied hills and splendid streets

and noble river and beautiful, peaceful Hollywood, shall not only gaze on the exquisite symmetry and homely grace of the old Capitol, and search out the Houdon statue, not only stand entranced before the equestrian Washington and his grand Revolutionary comrades—a work of art with which not many of its kind in all the world can be compared—but shall presently come out along Grace street to behold the new statue of one whom Virginians to the remotest ages must delight to honor, and then entering Richmond's own College, shall find that all these beauties of nature and glories of architecture and triumphs of the modern chisel have but prepared them somewhat better to appreciate even copies of those immortal works in which the old Italian painters and the ancient Greek sculptors still reign supreme in the highest domains of art.

This Museum and Art Hall is now formally opened as a Memorial of James Thomas, Jr., who, for more than forty years, was a trustee of Richmond College, and for some years before his death President of the Board, who is well-known to have been by far the largest contributor to its financial support and endowment, and who, with-

out stint, employed his magnificent business energies and wisdom in all manner of efforts to promote its usefulness and prosperity. The occasion is, therefore, appropriate for offering some account of his life and character, with special emphasis upon his interest in higher education, and particularly in this institution.*

The grandfather of Mr. Thomas came from England and settled on the Rappahannock river, where his estate is still known as "Thomas's Neck." He had a good education, but was not very successful in managing his pecuniary affairs. Of Mr. Thomas's father and mother, who lived in Caroline county, it is known that they were intelligent, having the ordinary education of the time; that they belonged to the best society of that region, and that they were marked by high Christian character and ardently devoted to the Methodist persuasion. The father was named James. Before he died his son was already widely known in the business world as James Thomas, Jr. To avoid business inconvenience

*Some facts have been derived, and occasionally an expression borrowed from articles which appeared after Mr. Thomas's death in the *Richmond Dispatch*, *The State*, and the *Religious Herald*.

and confusion with another man named James Thomas, he found it best to retain the "Junior" throughout his life. He was born, in Caroline county, February 8, 1806, and lived till October 8, 1882. He had the education given in the neighborhood schools of that period, with the inestimable advantage of an intelligent home-circle and free association with the better class of neighbors. He must have been trained from childhood to correct speech and courteous manners. He had an early and life-long love of reading and of conversation with intelligent people. In our day there is quite a tendency to suppose that nothing can be learned except from books—and from experience; and we do well to remember to how great an extent any susceptible youth is educated by the conversation at home and with the neighbors. As the years went on Mr. Thomas became highly educated in the school of life, not only accurate in thinking, but expressing himself in speech and writing with great precision and excellent taste, as well as with characteristic force. Very many of the eminent who are commonly spoken of as uneducated became highly educated before they reached middle age in this

same school of life; and it is a noteworthy and highly suggestive fact that nearly all men of this class are exceedingly anxious that their own children should have the finest educational advantages, and not a few of them anxious for the maintenance of such schools and colleges as may offer like advantages to the children of others. Quite possibly they sometimes over estimate the benefit which they themselves would have derived from higher education in youth, and are thereby led into greater enthusiasm. For, after all, though it may seem high treason to say so on a college platform, the grade of a man's practical intelligence and working force in this world does not depend so much upon his educational advantages as upon the question what sort of human being came into the world when he was born, and what influences surrounded his childhood.

Mr. Thomas was living in Richmond as early as 1827, at the age of twenty-one. It is known that he came to the city several years earlier. His brother Archibald, who was ten years older, had been in Richmond some years engaged in business, and the youth lived with him, and found

employment in the city. A young man coming from a country home to find business in a city presents one of the most common phenomena of life, and especially of American life for the last two or three generations. The proportion of city to country population is much greater now, but, heretofore, the great majority of those who have built up our cities by their business or professional career, came from the country. Though in diminished proportion, this must always continue to be the case. Here is a perpetual reason why city people should feel a deep interest in the promotion of education and religion in the country, and why country people should feel keenly interested in the social, religious, and business life of cities. The highest type of modern civilization requires the co-ordinate development and improvement of city and country, and all petty jealousies between town and country should be merged in a sense of common interests and absolute mutual dependence.

During the year 1827 the young man was baptized by Rev. John Kerr, celebrated throughout North Carolina and Virginia for his imaginative, impassioned, overpowering eloquence, who,

from 1825 to 1833, was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Richmond. Thus began, at the age of twenty-one, that religious life which must be thought of as an ever-pervading and controlling power throughout Mr. Thomas's career, and that happy and useful connection with the First Baptist Church, which lasted fifty-five years. He at once began, in September, 1827, to teach in the Sunday School, of which, twenty years later, he was to become the Superintendent. Happy the young man whose religious devotion and activity begin at least as early as his opening maturity.

The elder brother, Archibald, also became an eminently useful Christian, as an officer of the First Baptist Church, as trustee of the College, and for many years the devoted treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board, as a generous giver, and the head of a most hospitable home. He was a man of somewhat taciturn habit, but of strong mind and sound judgment, large heart and singularly deep piety.

In the Spring of 1829 James Thomas, Jr., went to Lynchburg to purchase tobacco for a house which had a contract with the Richmond agent of the French Government. He was doing well

at this, but the French Government presently appointed another agent, who gave the business to a different house, and by a single turn the young man lost what he had made. He used sometimes to tell the young business friends of his old age that at this time he was really "broke," but he let nobody know it. Buying and selling flour for a short time, he relieved the pressure, and then, by repeated and determined efforts, he formed a connection with the new French agent in Richmond, and so could again hope to do well. Very soon, however, he concluded to begin business for himself as a Richmond manufacturer. He had been practicing rigid economy. His largest annual salary being six hundred dollars, he had saved three hundred of it. His father could spare him three hundred dollars, and so, with a small capital, he began manufacturing in Richmond, probably in the beginning of 1830. This brief career in Lynchburg shows already the unconquerable resolution and varied resources by which he could turn failure into success, and saw in success only an incentive to aim higher. A very intelligent friend, who, after Mr. Thomas's death, wrote anonymously in one of the papers,

mentions that it was his rule from the beginning never to borrow money, and that he tried to be always cheerful, and keep his business powers in the best working order.

If we survey Mr Thomas's business career in Richmond from this beginning in 1830 to the opening of the war in 1860, we find it throughout controlled by certain great principles—to buy good materials, make a good article, find a good market—to abhor shams and tricks of every kind, and maintain scrupulous integrity in all dealings. These excellent principles would insure to any man at least moderate success; but eminent success required something additional. Mr. Thomas brought to bear high intellectual powers and laborious study of everything that pertained to his pursuits. He thoroughly informed himself about his line of business—combining broad views with patient mastery of all important details—and then looked keenly into its undeveloped possibilities. For example, he early saw that great value could be given in certain ways to the bright leaf tobacco, and that certain portions of Virginia and North Carolina were particularly adapted to the production of this variety. By his example and influence

and fostering care a demand was created which caused the extended cultivation of what is now said to be almost the only profitable kind of tobacco grown in those two States. He did not content himself with the ordinary markets afforded by this country and the monopolizing European governments. When California began to fill up with settlers, Mr. Thomas produced an article so carefully prepared that it would stand without injury the voyage around South America and twice across the tropics, and thus was for some years almost unrivalled in the California trade. When Australia began to fill up, he promptly entered that field also. As the insurance upon that class of factories would naturally be high, he early adopted the policy of abstaining from all insurance, and taking the risk himself, both as to factories and ships. A similar course is known to have been recently pursued by other very large organizations for the conduct of business involving heavy risks. Some have thought that in Mr. Thomas's case the plan turned out badly, for he three times had several factories burned—in 1853, in 1865 (at the close of the war), and again in 1872. It is not important for us to attack the

financial problem; it is known that he never regretted having pursued this course. Let us note in general, that eminently successful men do not escape the contingencies of their calling, but they accept these as part of the situation, and press forward with all the greater diligence. The notion of which boys are so fond, that some men are simply lucky and some unlucky, may be fostered by dime novels, but finds very little encouragement in the higher literature or in the thoughtful observation of actual life.

Like every highly successful and upright business man, Mr. Thomas contributed greatly to the prosperity of the city in which he lived. For instance, he bought real estate and improved it, having confidence in the growth of the city. He gave remunerative employment to a large and increasing number of persons. How can any man acquire great wealth except by employing many others, and by supplying the wants of the general public with satisfactory articles at reasonable prices? And how can a man permanently accumulate extensive possessions save by giving them shapes that make them an addition to the general wealth of the community, and conducive

to the general welfare of society? There may be exceptions, but such is the general law.

Mr. Thomas's family life began the year after he established himself as a manufacturer. He was first married in 1831 to Miss Mary Cornick Puller, of Caroline county, who died five years later, leaving two children, William D. and Mary Ella. The older friends of the former please themselves with observing that in several points of personal appearance, and in some highly important specific talents and traits of character, he seems every year more like his father. The daughter is fondly remembered by many of us as a beautiful and graceful woman, intelligent and genuine, frank and cordial and glad to do good, seeming in all respects fitted to become the bright centre of a well-ordered and happy home. She was married in 1862 to Hon. W. D. Quesenberry, but died in 1865. Mr. Thomas was married a second time in 1843 to Miss Mary Woolfolk Wortham, of Richmond. Not in this case, as in the former, are we precluded through lack of information from any attempt at characterization. May it be many a long year before any one will feel at liberty to say publicly what a wide circle of

admiring and devoted friends have long thought and felt. From this marriage there were six daughters who grew up, besides a daughter and a son named James who died in infancy, The six are well known as Mrs. J. L. M. Curry, Mrs. J. K. Connelly, Mrs. Thomas M. Rutherford, Mrs. Jas. W. Allison, Mrs. Calderon Carlisle, and Mrs. Richmond Pearson. Mrs. Allison died in 1876; and it may be permitted one who had peculiar occasion to know and love her to say, that she was a woman of unique personal grace and characteristically Southern beauty, and of such devout conscientiousness, thorough Christian unselfishness, and exquisitely feminine tenderness as one seldom meets through a long life. And without permission it may be said of the entire group that rarely in all the world has a father been blessed with seven daughters, each of such marked individuality, and all so conspicuous for personal attractions, high intelligence and accomplishments, and always moving in the highest social environment, at home or abroad, with easy dignity and grace. Amid this happy home circle Mr. Thomas delighted to exercise a lavish and cordial hospitality. Besides social entertainments shared by whatever

was best in Richmond society, and sometimes given on a princely scale, he welcomed to his home great numbers of friends from every part of the country, particularly Baptist ministers. In 1859, when the Southern Baptist Convention met in Richmond, he is said to have received into his own house more than sixty persons. All this hospitality was not only frequent and generous, but so cordial, considerate, complete, that one would never have thought of suggesting alteration. The far-famed Southern, and doubly famed Virginian hospitality, has perhaps never been more nobly exemplified.

In this most active period of Mr. Thomas's career (1830 to 1860), he showed characteristic zeal and activity in church life. A good many of our energetic and prosperous men of business persuade themselves that they ought to be excused from active participation in church work, because so very busy otherwise. Let us all rejoice that James Thomas, Jr., did not think so. Practical wisdom and energy of character are among the most important of all talents, and the Christian man who possesses them is as solemnly bound to use them freely in Christian work as is the most

gifted minister to use his powers of eloquent speech. Many and many a church might double its efficiency in a twelve-month, if the laymen of its present membership would but consecrate their practical energies to church work. We may dwell upon two special instances of Mr. Thomas's active exertion during this period.

When, in 1840, it was proposed by the First Church to build a new house of worship, the pastor, Dr. Jeter, suggested that the one thousand colored members might be organized into a separate church and occupy the old house of worship. The idea was new, and to many persons very unacceptable. The Baptist churches of Virginia had always taken much interest in the colored people, and almost every church in town and country had some colored members. The chief reason why the colored people generally inclined to the Baptists was doubtless this, that the Baptists did not regard early religious education as a necessary condition of Christian life, but urged the most ignorant adults to accept the Gospel as they were. This same idea and method produced like effects among the Karens of Burmah, the Telugus of India, and elsewhere; and in some of

our Southern States the Methodists have gained a large following among the colored people, for a similar reason. Nobody in 1840 opposed the reception of negroes into church membership, and it was common to assign them a gallery or other special portion of the house of worship, or even the whole house for special services. But the Southampton insurrection in 1831 had been stirred up by a negro who claimed to be a prophet, and this led to stringent Virginia laws forbidding religious meetings of the negroes unless in the presence of white people. The last difficulty was overcome by appointing a committee of white brethren, some of whom should attend all meetings at the African church, and by the consent of Robert Ryland, President of Richmond College, to become pastor of the church. From 1841 to 1865, Dr. Ryland elevated the office by the dignity of his position and character, and filled it with judicious and faithful labor, baptizing during that period 3,832 persons, while constantly keeping down the number by sober instruction and careful examination of candidates. In fact, the entire religious status of the colored people in Virginia had by 1860 been very greatly im-

proved, and largely through the success of this movement in Richmond, which Dr. Jeter was foremost in introducing, and Dr. Ryland in conducting. But one of the main difficulties at the outset was financial. How could the large house, then vacated by the First Baptist Church, be secured for the colored people, who were nearly all slaves? The church vacating reduced the price to less than the value of the property, and some of its members contributed freely to the purchase. But to all appearance the movement would have failed had not James Thomas, Jr., then thirty-five years old, just rising into business success and burdened with labors and cares, turned out among the tobacconists and other business men of the city, and overcoming hostility or indifference by his wisdom, enthusiasm, and personal influence, raised from that source three thousand dollars, which was at that time, and under all the circumstances, a large sum of money. Many a young business man would have shrunk from braving prejudice which might injure his own prospects. He not only did not shrink, but put his whole soul into the effort, fully recognizing its importance. To get the money from these slaveholding citizens

was worth incomparably more to the nascent enterprise than if he could have given it himself, for those who had given naturally became friendly to the undertaking. It would be difficult to find, in the whole history of Virginia, a really nobler piece of work, and some will rank it highest among all the actions of Mr. Thomas's long career.

From 1847 to 1866—i. e., from the age of 41 to that of 60, Mr. Thomas was superintendent of the First Church Sunday-school, in which he had been a teacher from his first connection with the church. He had been preceded in the office of superintendent by Archibald Thomas, C. Walthall, James C. Crane, and others. He discerned the possibilities of great usefulness in this position, and threw into it all his enthusiasm, energy, and administrative talent. Under him the school became the largest that had ever been seen in Richmond, having sometimes over five hundred present. He took great pains about the music, which was at that time generally quite dull in Sunday-schools. He was glad to get a really helpful address at the close, but selected his speakers with care, and told them to be short.

He wished everybody to feel that the object of their work was religious knowledge and religious character, while very anxious to make the exercises bright and enjoyable, and to employ all suitable accessories of interest and benefit. One day in 1853 his factories were burned; and though all his energies were characteristically aroused by the purpose to rebuild without delay, he yet went forth on that very day to supervise and attend his Sunday-school picnic, saying that he would not forfeit his pledge to the children for any private interest.

The great civil war, 1861 to 1865, has of necessity become a chronological dividing line in all recent Southern history and biography. Mr. Thomas foresaw, as few did in any part of the country, that the conflict would be vast, severe, and protracted. The day it was learned that Fort Sumter had been taken he made prompt arrangements for sending to his foreign markets the manufactured product then on hand, or which could be speedily prepared, and directed the proceeds of sale to be transmitted to his trusted correspondents in London, asking them to return no receipt, but to account to him at the end of the

war—which they did, with the business honor and accuracy characteristic of a first-class London house. Processes of manufacture were accelerated as much as possible, but the last and very valuable cargoes were seized at the mouth of James river by United States vessels, illegally precipitating the blockade, and entailing a very heavy loss, after all his foresight and energy. The same day that the Fort Sumter news came, he also went round and laid in groceries of every kind and various other domestic supplies, enough to meet the wants of his large family for five years. Some surprised dealers asked what in the world he was about, and he said that the war was likely to last several years, and a blockade would make such things very scarce and costly. The idea was openly ridiculed, and a report went out that Mr. Thomas's well-known dyspepsia had impaired his sanity. Towards the close of the war, a friend who was visiting him mentioned at table that he had heard of this accusation, and the host said, with a smile, that probably some of his old friends were wishing by this time that he had bitten them on the day he went crazy. Many a time, during the years of scarcity, were these

domestic comforts shared with some invalid, some aged person, or needy heusehold. At the outset of the war he equipped, at much expense, a battery of artillery which bore his name, and continued to give freely to very many public and private objects through the years of conflict and trial. After remaining some two or three years of the war in Richmond, he removed his family to Danville, where they lived till near the end of the war, when they returned to Richmond, and shared the well-remembered experiences of "Evacuation Day."

The seventeen years following the war may be taken as fairly representing Mr. Thomas's period of old age. He had suffered very great losses. Besides the blockading seizure, and the various losses incident to the progress of the war, and besides the value of servants whom he had largely employed in his factories, the great fire in Richmond on the day of the capture destroyed many of his factories and other buildings of great value. The profits of his business during the war had been largely invested in cotton. An agent in Texas had stringent orders the last winter for transportation across the Rio Grande at whatever cost,

but communication being interrupted, he shrank from the expense. The Trans-Mississippi Confederate authorities nominally took possession of the valuable commodity, and so of course it went into the hands of the United States government. These numerous and varied losses are estimated by friends as reaching a million of dollars. They were all such as no human foresight or energy could prevent. Many of our leading and older citizens, who had seen their estates suffer like terrible reduction, lost all heart and hope. Some speedily died, some spent their last years in querulous complaining, others suited themselves to changed circumstances and lived on in dignified silence, and yet others sought to retrieve their losses by wild speculation, often ending in complete disaster.

Mr. Thomas, though fifty-nine years old, and with health much impaired by a life of eager toil and by all the sorrows of the war, resumed business with characteristic promptness, rebuilt what the fire had destroyed, foresaw that the city would again grow, and made still further investments in real estate.

It was from this time his earnest effort, as indeed he had desired for some years before the war, to withdraw from personal devotion to the toils of business, and live a less anxious and wearing life. He associated with himself in the business at Richmond and other points several gentlemen in whom he had great and deserved confidence, many of them previously trained in his employment, and did succeed in leaving to them most of the laborious details; though, like Charles V. in the convent and many another example, he could not quite lay aside the solicitudes occasioned by temperament and life-long habit and by the large interests involved; and he did not propose to cease from general oversight of his varied affairs. He did, however, find more time in this last period than formerly for general reading, and the social conversation in which he so much delighted, for quiet enjoyment in his happy and hospitable home, and much exercise by driving in the city and its beautiful environs, and for frequent journeys in the summer to the springs and occasionally to the North. The subjects on which he chiefly loved to read, or to hear reading, and to converse with congenial friends, were such branches of science

as geology and astronomy, finance and political economy; and most of all did he delight in conversing upon the profounder questions of philosophy, and the deepest truths of revelation. Those who had spent their lives in studying such subjects would sometimes be amazed at his intellectual penetration and comprehensive breadth of view. When we come to think of it, these eminent business men, who look so widely around and so far ahead and achieve such wonderful successes, must almost necessarily be men of great general talent. Mr. Thomas felt a deep interest in public affairs, but declined all suggestions that he should seek political place or power. He would have made a wise and influential senator, a vigorous and efficient governor of the State he loved so well, but he preferred to pursue the even tenor of his way, seeking to promote education and religion. He prolonged his life and usefulness by carefully observing many of the conditions of health, and bore up bravely against the depressing effect of dyspepsia, with consequent nervousness and other ailments. One of his seasons of special ill-health led to a newspaper report that was ludicrous. When Jefferson Davis was brought to Richmond

in May, 1867, and allowed to give bail, one of those who united with Horace Greeley in signing the bail-bond was James Thomas, Jr. Being extremely nervous at the time, perhaps suffering a temporary writer's cramp, he told another person to write his name, and simply made his mark. Another aged gentleman, who was nearly blind, did likewise. Certain Northern papers seized upon the fact, and scornfully declared that two of the leading citizens of Richmond could not write their names. A good many of our Northern fellow-citizens have been slow to abandon the persuasion that in consequence of slavery and the lack of public schools the Southerners were a barbarous people; and this, notwithstanding the often mentioned fact that there have always been more college graduates among Southern congressmen than Northern. Mr. Thomas's handwriting was clear and vigorous; in fact, it plainly showed in every stroke the energy of his nature. It may be added that his letters were sometimes models of argument and persuasion, and the style singularly lucid and energetic.

Recovering promptly from a stroke of facial paralysis in 1877, he continued clear-headed, ener-

getic, and full of consideration and affection for others. Through all these last years he had been showing a ripened spirituality, and an increasing delight in religious conversation and all the exercises of public and private devotion; and amid all infirmities he maintained a beautiful cheerfulness. His death, on October 8, 1882, was caused by pneumonia, after an illness of but four or five days. By a remarkable providence, all of his surviving children had come together, and four of his seven sons-in-law. He was aware of the probable termination of the disease, and spoke with composure of his approaching end. Alas for us, if the closing hours of our earthly existence must be perturbed and agitated by hurried efforts to effect a long-neglected preparation for the life eternal. Let us spend our lives in God's service, and we shall come to our death in God's peace. On one Sunday Mr. Thomas was a deeply interested participant in public worship: very early the next Sunday morning he passed away to the better life. His age was seventy-six years and eight months. His funeral, the next afternoon, seems to have stirred all Richmond. He was the oldest member of the tobacco trade in the city, and com-

monly supposed to be the wealthiest citizen. He was the chief supporter of Richmond College, the leading layman of his denomination in the city, and an equal in the highest society. But, at the same time, he was mourned by such numbers as only the recording angel could report, of persons whom, by gift or encouragement, by counsel or influence, he had helped over the rough places of life. It was an interesting circumstance that his coffin was borne into and out of the church by twelve colored men who had been his servants, and that an immense number of colored people lined the streets. He had been in the olden time a singularly kind master, and had continued to take deep interest in the welfare of the freedmen. A colored pastor voluntarily published the statement that hundreds of his race had received gifts from Mr. Thomas's benevolent hand. All Virginia newspapers, and many of other States, contained articles upon his life and death, and there came speedily a great number of letters of condolence from all parts of the United States, and from several points in Europe.

We must now attempt to indicate more distinctly the leading traits of Mr. Thomas's character.

He was a man of penetrating intelligence. He saw into things. Business men of his stamp exhibit imagination of a very high order, enabling them to understand the probable effect of quite new circumstances, to work out the logic of untried situations. Thus they discern and comprehend the opportunities of life when *approaching*, and are ready to seize and turn them to account, while most of us see opportunities just a little too late for reaping their largest benefit. But this imaginative insight on the part of such a man is not a mere instinct, or a blind intuition; it is connected with the power of concentrated and patient attention. He would inform himself fully upon a question; then he thought through the whole matter, looked at it on all sides, considered even its remote and occult relations. This laborious reflection might sometimes be a rapid process; in other cases, slow and patient; but he brooded over the whole matter till a clear result was reached. So Sir Isaac Newton is reported to have said, to a friend who inquired, that he knew of nothing peculiar in his own mental operations, unless it were a certain habit of patient thinking. Mr. Thomas's judgment came to be very highly valued

even upon matters apart from his business experience. It is known that several eminent members of the Confederate Congress, and also the acute and perspicacious Vice-President, Mr. A. H. Stephens, used to seek his opinion upon questions of finance, and other matters of legislation and government. He showed a remarkable insight into human nature. All large business affairs depend upon a knowledge of physical laws and of human nature. To know what employees can be relied on, and the special adaptation of each one, to understand the character of rivals in business, and discern the general wants and tendencies of the time, is one main element in qualification for great business achievement. He had singular power of extracting information from other men by skilful questions; yet he kept his own counsel, relied on himself, sought information from others, but seldom sought advice. In all the intercourse of home, of society, in the church or in business, what he said was almost sure to be judicious, and it was quite certain that he would say nothing injudicious. Many would fully share the opinion of one who knew him well

in his later years: "I thought, and still think, he was the wisest man I ever knew."

Mr. Thomas was a man of prodigious force of will, with unconquerable reliance on his own resources, and on the merciful providence of the God he loved. We have seen that he was never discouraged by losses. They seemed to make him rise with an immediate spring of elastic energy. Perhaps that early experience of sudden reverse in Lynchburg may have given to his enterprising nature a helpful touch of sobriety, but at no time, from youth to utmost age, was he ever timid or hesitating. He had great power of imparting his own enthusiasm to others, like the eminent military leaders, and of making each man work up to his highest bent. And also like a great general, when his processes of reflection were completed, his plans laid, and the time for action arrived, he would act with an outburst of energy. His principal business associate recalls how often he would say, "Now strike while the iron is hot," or, "Now go ahead like a shot out of a shovel."

He was a man of justice, integrity and honor. He knew that "honesty is the best policy," but

he had far deeper reasons than that for being honest. Many a young fellow just entering upon business is tempted to think, perhaps is told by some older men, that an occasional short cut or sharp trick is really necessary to success, and that everybody does so, now and then. Thank God for the fact, that in every large community of our country there are examples of men who have achieved high business successes while maintaining a life-long course of unimpeachable integrity and high-toned honor. Mr. John S. Gilliat, of London, head of the famous old house of J. K. Gilliat and Co., which Mr. Thomas had safely trusted at the time of the war, and with which he had maintained the most intimate business relations for long years before and after, in a touching letter of condolence, referred to "the important part he has sustained in our old tobacco trade, in preserving its high traditions and principles inviolate to the end." In the conflicts of business, he did indeed show a very natural unwillingness to be beaten. He had an imperial nature, perhaps sometimes imperious; and the business rival who got in his way might be run over. But he was always frank and perfectly sincere. He

promptly recognized the claims of others, and would often do a kindness in the very heat of some battle on 'Change. Shortly after his death a Virginian, who now lives in Louisville, in talking with a friend on the street, told of an instance in which he once rather timidly bid against the great magnate, and the latter turning to him with a pleasant countenance said, "Young man, do you really want that? Do you want it for your own use in your business?" "Yes, I do." "Well, you shall have it."

A remarkable thing about this man of strong intellect, mighty will, and absorbing toils, was the glowing warmth of his affections. Seldom has any one of us been honored with a friendship so beautifully cordial, thoroughly genuine and frankly demonstrative. He once invited to be his guest on a first visit to the General Association, a young minister in whom he took interest for his father's sake. After a day or two he said privately to the young man, "I think it is a fault of yours that you do not heartily greet the brethren to whom I introduce you. I am sure you feel kindly towards them; why not take some pains to let them see that you do?" It was excellent counsel, which a

bashful youth much needed. The love of wife and children is, let us thankfully recognize, a very common thing; but there are natures in which it becomes so rich and overflowing as to be uncommon and characteristic; and this was strikingly true in the present case. He did not love merely with the love commanded by their deserts; he poured out upon them the spontaneous riches of his great hearted affection, a mighty torrent of love like the James river when in flood, an enveloping atmosphere of love as when the setting sun bathes Virginia's blue mountains in an almost unearthly glory. But there are no words to tell. The great novelists of our age, and the great poets of all the ages, have vainly striven to describe what conjugal and parental love may be. The young are apt to think they have a monopoly in this regard; but perchance there are souls that ever expand with life's enlarging experiences, till their affections attain a depth and height, a length and breadth, which the young must bide their time if they would understand. Mr. Thomas's domestic life was very admirable. He made companions of his children, and from him nothing was withheld. On his part firmness, tenderness, love; on their part respect,

confidence, obedience, reverence, love. One who has seen much of whatsoever is noblest in human life declares: "Home had new significance as applied to his household." All who ever sojourned in that home will remember his great delight in music. There were skilled performers there, and sweet voices that could thrill the soul. However others might be charmed, his admiring delight seemed to overtop all else, so natural and simple, so cordial and genuine. He had a great love of the beautiful in general; and that a noble hall designed especially for the promotion of art should become a memorial of him is a thing congruous and appropriate. The profound impression made upon his household by his whole character and life may be shown from a fact of family history which of necessity became known to the public. He left an incomplete will, only in part indicating his purposes. This might have been, and not unreasonably, the occasion of protracted and expensive litigation; but reverence for the father's memory, loving acquiescence in his supposed wishes, was the law for a peaceful adjustment. Those who predicted law-suits and family feuds were disappointed.

We have already made some reference to Mr. Thomas's religious life. Here all his high and varied endowments showed themselves, and were in turn developed, chastened, controlled by Christian principles and motives. We have said that his profound thinking upon the greatest themes of theology often surprised his ministerial friends. Calvinism compels to deep thinking. One must not dare to say that this makes any person dislike Calvinism, but it certainly attracts some minds towards it. Hugh Miller raises the question whether the Scotch were Presbyterians because metaphysical, or metaphysical because Presbyterians; and the answer doubtless is that each tendency promoted the other.

Mr. Thomas showed intense delight in public worship and preaching, and this grew more deep and tender with his advancing years. He greatly loved to have some deeply devout man, it might be layman or minister, conduct the worship of his family, that he might "hear him pray." His own prayers are said by the venerable Dr. Ryland, who knew him from youth, to have been singularly reverent and tender. He was fond of having sermons read to him by his daughters, or the Pil-

grim's Progress. He would say about the sermons of Richard Fuller and Maclaren, "Oh, they are grand! Christ all through!" Yet there was no substitute with him for the daily study of the word of God. At church, it was an inspiration to a preacher to watch the glowing countenance of such a hearer. In proportion as the sermon approached the very heart of the Gospel, his deep and demonstrative enjoyment increased. Without wishing to remove any part of the solemn responsibility which rests upon ministers of the Gospel, it may be earnestly said that a larger proportion of deeply sympathetic hearers would bring about a higher quality of preaching.

Mr. Thomas was very modest and self-reproachful in talking about his personal relation to Christ. When he first came before the church, and was asked to tell his experience, he is said to have simply quoted one sentence of Scripture: "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord." He had through life a great scorn of everything like cant, and a passion for genuineness, for realness in all things. His religion was intensely practical, dominating all his thoughts, feelings, purposes, actions,

his every-day life, his whole being. He believed in soul-liberty, fully conceding to others what he claimed for himself. Very decided in his religious views, he was no harsh sectarian. Indeed, he saw good in every man, apologized for human weaknesses, and would reprove hasty judgments and ascription of bad motives. It was sometimes striking to observe his magnanimity. In so strong a nature, conscious of high intelligence and sound judgment, a willingness to yield one's own opinion or preference, is a higher proof of Christian principle than perhaps any other. If men are to work together for the promotion of good objects, each of them must often consent to work in what does not appear to him quite the best way. Mr. Thomas often did this, and would privately urge others to yield a point to some venerable or sensitive brother. Thus his whole religious influence was conservative. In the funeral addresses, he was spoken of by his latest pastor as "the peacemaker of the church," and by an earlier pastor of many years as "a man of sanctified common sense."

His charities began early in life, and expanded into great breadth and variety of public and pri-

vate benevolence. After growing wealthy, he liked to do that which is often so judicious, to make some large gift the inducement for others to give. On the other hand, he would sometimes say privately to a collector in whom he had confidence, "Get all you can, and I'll see you through." His private charities were more various than can be described, more numerous than will ever be known. Not a few of them became known to his family only after his death; and sometimes even the recipients of his bounty did not know whence it came. In numerous instances and varied ways he helped young men to get started in business, or relieved them when in difficulty. He aided the young of both sexes in gaining education, sometimes continuing this to the same person for a term of years. He would send a girl a bridal trousseau, or repeated gifts in some delicate fashion to a needy widow. A struggling and ill-paid minister would receive a suit of clothes, or a sum of money, sent through some one else as a gift from his friends, though nearly all really came from one friend; or would be invited to spend some weeks at the Springs, with the understanding that it would cost him nothing. At one time,

when his son and sons-in-law were absent, he requested a friend to look out for people who were needy and deserving, and give them a barrel of flour, or a load of coal, or a sum of money on his account, and to tell no one whatever. Of course he could not respond favorably to all the applications with which every man known to be wealthy and generous is overwhelmed, and some of the disappointed may have represented, may have sincerely thought, that he was wanting in benevolence—a species of misapprehension which the kindest persons, both rich and poor, must sometimes endure. But those who had any general knowledge of his life knew well that he was systematic in large donations, and delighted in all manner of lesser gifts. These charities were by no means merely impulsive, but were the result of principle and prayerful reflection. He told one to whom he would speak freely that he had a great dread of becoming stingy with advancing years, and set himself to escape it. Whenever he suffered a great business loss, he was almost sure to follow it immediately by a considerable gift to something or somebody, by way of overcoming the natural tendency to hold fast to what remained.

Reserving what is to be said of Mr. Thomas's educational gifts and labors, it may at this point be added that his whole personal appearance finely corresponded to his character. The form was massive and well-proportioned ; not exactly quick, but steadily energetic in movement. The countenance was made up of strong and symmetrical features—an expansive forehead, a mouth that showed unbounded resolution and force, but also flexibility and kindliness, an eye that could gleam like the sun or be soft as a star, a voice strong, resonant, varied, in every tone agreeable. And his total bearing and manner were just himself. Let us borrow the words of one who knows men, and who knew him: "He was to me physically, intellectually, morally and spiritually, nothing less than majestic."

It remains to speak especially of Mr. Thomas's interest in the cause of higher education. He no doubt contributed as a member of the First Church to the Virginia Baptist Seminary, founded in 1832, and presided over from the beginning by Robert Ryland. When, in 1840, it was incorporated as Richmond College, he was made one of the trustees, and so continued. He gave money at many

times to meet the general expenses, and to carry the institution over some crisis, and unsparingly gave his best energies and judgment, and his precious time, to whatsoever would promote the interests of the enterprise. Keenly appreciating the value of knowledge and mental training, burning with desire to see the rapidly growing Baptist denomination lifted up by the more general education of its ministry and membership, passionately loving his native State and eager to advance her highest interests, he lavished his energy and enthusiasm upon this institution of higher education.

But that was by no means enough. He felt the similar need as to the other sex, and was the father of the Richmond Female Institute. He purchased the lot, made the first contribution to the stock for the erection of buildings, stirred up leading ministers and laymen to see the importance of the undertaking, persevered when others were discouraged, gave again and again, it is not known how much, until the Institute entered upon its useful work in September, 1854. It is an honor to our age that the real education of women is at last beginning to be highly appreciated. Two

points seem now to demand especial attention. The best female schools ought to be endowed, so that first-class instructors may be employed in adequate number, and yet the charge for tuition may be within the reach of pupils who are not wealthy. And there ought to be ample provision for election in study, so that the intellectual training may be as severe as that of the foremost young men, where a girl's health and turn of mind and aspirations make it desirable, while yet the great majority shall not be pressed into undertaking such a course.

When the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary began operations at Greenville, South Carolina, in 1859, offering theological instruction to Baptist students from all the Southern States, Mr. Thomas was not at first disposed to help it. He knew the great benefit to ministers of general education such as the colleges give, but was acquainted with very few who had added to this the special training of a theological seminary, and was not quite sure that this last was greatly to be desired. He grew every year more eager to see the college strengthened, and doubted whether this did not need and deserve all that he could

give. He had always disliked to see any minister leave Virginia, and this seminary was taking away two Virginia ministers at one blow. He would not help, though personally very kind to all concerned. But when the seminary came out of the war robbed of that adequate endowment which it had possessed in the bonds of Southern planters, and now almost entirely destitute; when he saw the persistent efforts of those interested to maintain and build up the institution, when he began gradually to understand its real aims and tendencies, and to see the effect of its training upon some young ministers, he quietly changed his mind, as only weak men are unable to do, and again and again made valuable donations for the seminary's current support and permanent endowment.

During the war Richmond College was suspended, and the buildings occupied as barracks or hospitals. In 1862 all the bank stocks and the city and railroad bonds belonging to the endowment were sold by the trustees at a great apparent profit and converted into Confederate bonds. This action Mr. Thomas, with his usual insight and judgment, strenuously and vehemently re-

sisted, as involving a risk which fiduciaries had no right to run. From that time he felt that the college he loved was practically ruined. And so indeed it seemed when the General Association met in Richmond in 1866. But such able and honored alumni as John C. Long, Geo. B. Taylor, H. H. Harris, W. E. Hatcher and others brought the matter before the General Association, and urged with kindling love and zeal that the college should be reopened and re-endowed. "The climax was reached when James Thomas, Jr., from his place near the centre of the church, briefly told how, as one of the trustees, he had protested against the change of investment, and when it was made in spite of all protest he had given up in despair, but added that 'the enthusiasm of those young men' had touched him, and that he was ready to subscribe five thousand dollars for another endowment, and, pending its collection, pay the salary of one professor. This thrilled the audience with hope, and settled the question."* Dr. A. M. Poindexter at once began a collection, and by appointment of the board became regular

* Dr. H. H. Harris, Historical Sketch, appended to Catalogue of 1884–'85.

agent for two years. Mr. Thomas personally went with him around all Richmond, to men of all denominations and of no denomination, putting his whole force into the effort. The result of the contributions throughout the State was about seventy-five thousand dollars, payable in five annual instalments. In the utterly wrecked financial condition at that time, a large portion was never actually paid in, but the college went on, with a new organization, and several very able professors, who soon gave it a reputation for first-class work.

In 1872 the General Association resolved to celebrate the next year its semi-centennial, and, among other things, to raise a hundred thousand dollars for the endowment and buildings of Richmond College. Before the adjournment, Mr. Thomas came forward, and, in a few burning words, urged that they should increase the proposed sum to three hundred thousand, which was done. Dr. J. L. Burrows took the agency, and prosecuted it with characteristic energy and enthusiasm, and very nearly the amount proposed was reached in cash, bonds, and many kinds of promises. Although the next year, 1873, brought

the great financial crash, which long prostrated the whole country, at least one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of this memorial fund were actually received. Some cautious persons at the time of the original proposition, and many "prophets after the event," declared that Mr. Thomas had been utterly carried away by extravagant ideas in asking such a sum from the impoverished Baptists of Virginia. Mr. Thomas doubtless knew that a financial crisis would come ere many years; but no one could tell how soon, and at that time the United States currency had become in some quarters quite abundant. If the financial crisis had been delayed two years longer, in all probability very nearly the whole amount proposed would have been received. As it was, the effort actually yielded fifty per cent. more than the original proposition. Where is the just ground of complaint or censure? When William Carey said, "Attempt great things for God, and expect great things from God," he might very well have added, if the question had been raised, "and hold fast your trust in God's providence, even though you sometimes partly fail."

On the death of Dr. Jeter, who had been a life-long friend of the college, and long President of the Board of Trustees, James Thomas, Jr., was, on March 9, 1880, elected President of the Trustees in his place. Not long after, some brethren proposed an effort to erect a library hall, as a "Jeter Memorial." This large undertaking languished, and seemed likely to fail, when Mr. Thomas "again came to the rescue with a subscription of five thousand dollars, on condition that the hall be so planned as to complete the unfinished college building." We see that he had an eye to architectural effect as well as convenience. Then "by the agency of Dr. A. E. Dickinson some thirty-five thousand dollars more was raised, mostly in the North;" and we behold the completed and beautiful result. Let us miss no opportunity of repeating the expression of most cordial gratitude to the noble Christians at the North who have so generously aided this and other struggling Southern institutions of higher education. And let us afford them the most pleasing proof that they gave wisely, by putting forth diligent exertions to strengthen these institutions still further.

Mr. Thomas's last gift to the college was made in 1881, a year before his death, being an endowment of twenty-five thousand dollars for a professorship—and the school of Philosophy was subsequently designated. The total amount of his gifts to the college, first and last, has been variously estimated at from fifty to sixty thousand dollars, but cannot now be accurately determined.

Learning that the trustees proposed to set apart this museum and art hall as a memorial of James Thomas, Jr., his family have united in giving ten thousand dollars to found "The Thomas Museum Lecture Endowment." The income of this endowment is to be used annually "to secure the delivery at the college (and, if practicable, in this hall) of a course of lectures on subjects either of science, or of philosophy, or of art." These lectures are to be delivered by "really eminent men of our own and of other countries," and are to be open to the public.

We should remember that not even the largest donations of this faithful friend were probably so helpful to the college as his frequent smaller gifts at critical periods. Many times, both before and after the war, when the finances fell short and the

trustees were utterly at a loss, he quietly said that he would pay the debt, or that he would give so and so upon such conditions, and thus the wheels were kept moving. Ah! there are few that will ever know the long and sore struggle by which our higher institutions have been sustained and gradually strengthened, especially in the trying years that followed the war. Thank God for the devoted men who have persevered in their ill-paid task of high instruction, for the many who have given something amid poverty and embarrassment, and for the few special friends of one or another institution who have stood by, and, at whatsoever inconvenience to themselves, have stepped forward in every season of peril. But most of all did Mr. Thomas aid this college by his wise counsels, and by the inspiration of his elevated, broad, and cheerful views as to the aims and possibilities of higher education. A great institution of the sort cannot be suddenly created; it must be a growth. Much has been done for Richmond College by earlier and later and present teachers—some of them highly gifted and very noble men; much by diligent students, who have furnished an inspiring example to their fel-

lows during college life, and are reflecting true honor upon their alma mater by subsequent usefulness and renown; much by the wise management of the trustees, in the city and throughout the State, and by the popular interest awakened through the very necessity of repeatedly appealing for current support and endowment; but among the most potent elements that have entered into the very constitution and gone to determine the vital influence of Richmond College, have been the spirit snd temper of the remarkable man whose career we have this evening surveyed. It has long been true, and will long continue to be, that students going forth from this place must carry with them, among those unconscious impressions which are often so powerful, some impress from the character of Jas. Thomas, Junior.

This college is fortunate in its location. In many another State are excellent institutions, whose wisest friends now keenly wish that they too had been established at some large and growing city. The old idea that college life ought to be secluded from the temptations of a great city, whether wise or not, is now simply impracticable.

L. of C.

We might say that those who are willing to be overcome by the temptations of incipient manhood will be amply tempted in any quiet village or country neighborhood. But certainly, at the present time, no secluded college can prosper without a railway to bring the students; and this railway can bring temptations in many forms from the nearest cities, or carry students on perilous visits. We have come to see that for the real and terrible dangers which beset the period usually embraced in college life there is no true remedy but in correct principles instilled during childhood, in home influence kept vivid by diligently sustained correspondence, in the better aspirations that exalt humanity, and in the grace that comes down from heaven. The great advantages to a college of location in a large city are numerous and obvious. City and college can greatly aid each other in the promotion of true culture, and the real elevation of society. In the checkered history of this widely useful and richly promising institution, it has frequently received unspeakably important assistance from the wise counsels, the generous gifts, the hearty support in every sense, not merely of one extraordinary

man, but of many noble citizens. Let us hope that the example on which we have been reflecting will prove contagious; that many prosperous dwellers in Virginia's chief city and fair capital may cherish a living and practical interest in Richmond College; that they may cause it to grow every year more beautiful in its outward appointments, more ample in the endowment of its instruction, and stronger in every element of wholesome influence. The history of civilization shows that the safest and most permanent investments men ever make are in institutions of education and religion. These live amid revolutions and social changes. Long centuries after a man has been otherwise forgotten, and his influence is no longer discernible amid the rushing tide of human affairs, what he once thus invested will still abide, a perennial source of good to mankind and of glory to God.

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